



# Data Points

CWHS

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

California has established a number of programs to increase access for all Californians to a secure supply of healthy foods. These include the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, as well as programs to support development of Farmers' Markets and to encourage small local food stores to carry fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods. However, the 1997 California Women's Health Survey determined that one in nine California women still do not have a secure food supply.<sup>1,2</sup> To better serve these women, it is important to understand the characteristics of women likely to be at risk for hunger.

The 1998 California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) was used to determine characteristics of women most likely to be at risk. Women who answered "yes" to the question: **"In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you**

**should have because there wasn't enough money to buy food?"** were considered to be at risk for hunger. Demographic information collected included race, ethnicity, and level of educational attainment.

Among all California women, 11% reported having insufficient food at some time in the previous year.

A woman's risk for hunger decreases as her educational level increases:

- Among women with a 9th grade education or less, 27% are at risk for hunger.
- Among women who graduate from college, only 4% are at risk for hunger.

## RISK FOR HUNGER AMONG CALIFORNIA WOMEN, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 1998

Office of Women's Health

Maternal and Child Health Branch

<sup>1</sup> Data Points, Issue 1 (13). (1998) "Risk for Hunger Among Women, by Age; California, 1997".

<sup>2</sup> Data Points, Issue 1 (14). (1998) "Risk for Hunger Among Women, by Race/Ethnicity; California, 1997".

Educational Attainment and Women's Risk of Hunger  
California, 1998

